

# New St. James Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
"Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others"  
December 22, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.



Detail from *The Annunciation to Mary* (1933), New St. James

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Clark

Director of Music: Torin W. Chiles

Reader: Alison Curtis

Advent Candle: Roy, Hannah, and Nicole Oke

Choristers: Janaki Butterworth, Nathan Dyck, Ariel Harwood-Jones,  
Robert Hutson, and Angela Myshkowsky

## We Gather to Worship God

**Prelude** *A Maiden Most Gentle (Lourdes Hymn)* French traditional carol; arr. A. Grant (1974)

\* **Processional Hymn** The angel Gabriel from heaven came (GABRIEL'S MESSAGE) **156**

\* **Responsive Call to Worship** Luke 1:46-48

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour  
on the lowliness of his servant.

### Prayers of Adoration and Confession

**Word of Assurance for Advent (sung in unison)** Titus 3:4-6 (RICHMOND) **118**

The kindness of our God appears  
to pour out richest grace;  
as we are saved from sin and fears,  
we see the Saviour's face!

### Welcome

**Introit** *Mary, Hail! (Personent Hodie)* *Piae Cantiones* (1592); arr. G. Holst (1874-1934)  
Mary, Hail! Though afraid, she believed; she obeyed. In her womb, God is 'til the time expected,  
nurtured and protected. Ring, bells, ring! Sing, choirs, sing! When he comes, we will make him  
welcome!

## We Hear the Word of God

### Word to the Children

\* **Children's Hymn** With all my heart I praise the Lord (WINCHESTER OLD) D. Clark (2021)

*With all my heart I praise the Lord,  
and I rejoice in God;  
with all my heart I praise the Lord,  
and sing God's saving love.*  
I'm humble, very poor, and young,  
and yet God cares for me!  
Remember now and celebrate  
the blessings I can see. (*Refrain*)  
God's love is mighty, and God's name  
I celebrate and praise;  
may all who love and serve the Lord  
worship God all their days! (*Refrain*)

### Lighting of the Advent Candle: Love

**Sung Response** Hope is a star (MOON BEAMS) **119, verse 4**

**Anthem** *Mary and Elizabeth* P. Choplin (2007)  
Elizabeth, are you there? Mary is that you? I am here. Blessed are you among all women now.  
Blessed is the child you will bear. And when I heard your voice as you greeted me, the baby in my  
womb leaped for joy. My soul magnifies the Lord. I magnify the Lord, my God, my Saviour. The  
Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is His name. And when I think of how He blessed  
me, it leads me to say: Praise the Lord! And when I think of all this child will be, it fills my heart full  
of joy. I sing with joy!

## Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson** Micah 5:2-5

p. 865 in O.T.

**Responsive Psalm** Psalm 80:1-7

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,

shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

## \* Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 1:39-55

p. 57 in N.T.

**Sermon** "And My Spirit Rejoices"

The Rev. Dr. David Clark

## We Respond in Faith and Service

\* **Hymn** My soul gives glory to my God (MORNING SONG)

123

**Offertory** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

P. Manz (1919-2009)

\* **Doxology for Advent** (WINCHESTER OLD)

138, verse 6

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to earth begin, and never cease!"

## \* Prayer of Dedication

### Announcements

**Solo** *Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendour*  
Nathan Dyck, Baritone

17th-c. French carol

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour, all for love's sake becamest poor; thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor. Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man; stooping so low, but sinners raising heav'nwards by Thine eternal plan. Thou who art love beyond all telling, Saviour and King, we worship Thee. Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what Thou wouldst have us be.

### Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession, Commemoration, and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

\* **Recessional Hymn** People, look east (BESANÇON)

125

\* **Commission, Benediction, and Threefold Amen** (DANISH)

780

**Postlude** *Noël Nouvelet*

15th-c. French carol; arr. R. Hudson (1976)

## Announcements

Welcome to today's worship service. We are grateful that you have joined us! If you are worshipping here for the first time, please sign the **Guest Book** in the Narthex, located at the back of the Sanctuary. An Usher would be pleased to offer you directions.

Highland Group welcomes young children into **the nursery**, outside the west doors of the Sanctuary. Please join us following worship for **refreshments and fellowship** in New St. James Hall.

Women's Council has posted a list on the bulletin board in New St. James Hall where you can offer to help prepare, serve, and clean up for **coffee hours on Sunday mornings**. You will work with Karen Buchwald to help her get the refreshments ready before the start of the service.

On **Christmas Eve**, we will celebrate the Nativity of the Lord with a worship service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please consider inviting friends, family, and neighbours to share in this joyful occasion.

The **church office** will be **closed** on Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26.

### Advent 2024 Appeal: Matching gifts!

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Luke 6:38). As we strive to meet this year's budget demands, the Congregation is invited to participate in a matching gift program. Your special gifts, over-and-above your regular offering, will be matched in December. In other words, your donation will be doubled! \$16,500 has been committed to be matched. If you give \$10, in effect it will become \$20, \$100 will become \$200, and \$1000 will become \$2000. All of your contributions will help New St. James to fulfill our missions. Please consider a special donation to the church before December 31. Envelopes will be available in the Narthex. Note: due to the postal interruption, please drop off your special gift in person or contribute electronically by e-transfer. E-transfers may be sent via the following email address: [admin@newstjames.ca](mailto:admin@newstjames.ca)

### Financial Update, end of November, 2024:

	Jan – Nov 2024	Jan – Nov 2023	\$ Change	% Change
Total Income	310,038	280,322	29,716	10.6%
Total Expenses	352,676	341,465	11,210	3.1%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-42,637</b>	<b>-61,143</b>	<b>18,506</b>	<b>30.3%</b>

**Announcements** are an important way to keep the congregation informed about the ministry of NSJ. The weekly deadline for submitting a requested announcement is Wednesday at noon. Announcements are reserved for information regarding the ministry of New St. James and the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

As the church building has become a busy place again, a reminder to all NSJ groups and committees: please remember to **book your meeting space** in advance by contacting Judi Le Blanc in the Church Office.

To protect people who are sensitive or allergic to scent, we want to make New St. James scent-free. Please keep this in mind when applying perfume, cologne, or aftershave.

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